

Director's Report December 2010

Good Reads for the Holidays @ Your Library

Season's Greetings! The winter season along with snow and freezing temperatures are upon us. I invite you to stop by your local library and check out some good "reads" for those quiet evenings at home. Placing reading on your list of "Must Do's" during the holidays may be just the outlet you need to keep the season stress free. Whether it's a holiday cookbook, advice on decorating your home, or a favorite classic title, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has a variety of materials for your reading needs. We also have books on CD as well as movies for all ages.

Do you know that MCPL offers you many resources right from your computer? Downloadable books, audio books, music, scores and videos are free to MCPL cardholders. All you need to access these resources is your library card and PIN. For more information, please visit the library website and click on the "E-Library" link located on the left navigation bar.

Collection Update

As you are aware, cuts in the library budget have been absorbed in many ways: reductions in hours, staff and programs, as well as significant cuts in the library's materials budget. Since we are only able to purchase a limited number of new materials, we recognize that library customers are experiencing longer wait times for books and other items. Library funding challenges will continue to impact the purchase of collection materials and therefore the availability of materials to customers.

We regret the inconvenience that we know this situation is causing many of you. If you wish to let me know how we are doing in providing the materials you need, please feel free to use this form to contact me:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/libraries/comments.asp>

Facilities Update

The Gaithersburg Interim branch, located on the second floor of Lakeforest Mall in the Sears wing, will open to the public on Sunday, December 19, at 1 p.m. The 3,000 square-foot facility will house approximately 25,000 volumes. Customers will be able to check out and return materials, place holds and receive assistance with information questions. The Interim will not have Internet PCs, but there will be two computers available for searching the library catalog and databases. Hours of operation are: Sunday, 1- 5 p.m., Monday, 5 - 9 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1- 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

50th Anniversary of the Human Rights Commission

MCPL is joining the Human Rights Commission and the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Human Rights Commission (formerly the Human Relations Commission). An author visit by Paula Young Shelton, daughter of civil rights activist Andrew Young will set the stage for a discussion with children about the historical Civil Rights Movement. The program will take place at the Rockville Memorial Library on January 12. Ms. Shelton is the author of the children's book, "Child of the Civil Rights Movement," a unique story from a child's perspective about this important chapter in America's history.

Other activities include a series of community discussions about the history of African Americans in Montgomery County entitled, "Journey through African American History."

These discussions will be held at the Rockville Memorial, Marilyn J. Praisner, Silver Spring, Quince Orchard and Germantown libraries. Topics for discussion include, Historically Black Communities, Museums and Historical Sites, the Underground Railroad in Montgomery County, Black Colleges and Churches and African American Veterans.

Upcoming Program Highlights

Beginning January 11, Bone Builders exercise class for seniors will be held at the Potomac Library every Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4 p.m. The class, presented in collaboration with Montgomery County Health and Human Services and the RSVP Program, is led by trained volunteers and incorporates balance and weight training proven in research studies to increase bone density. For more information and to register, you may contact Shawn Brennan at 240-777-1350.

Chinese New Year celebrations will take place from January 22 through February 19 at many libraries throughout our system. Programs will feature traditional Chinese lion dance, folk dance, Chinese yo-yo demonstrations and arts and crafts activities for children of all ages.

The Friends of the Library have designated February as Library Lovers Month, an opportunity to recognize the value of libraries and raise awareness of the important role that libraries play in the life of communities. Information about special library programs will be announced in January.

New Year Wishes

On behalf of the entire library system, I want to thank all of you, our valued customers, for using Montgomery County Public Libraries. We wish you a Happy New Year!

B. Parker Hamilton
Director